

Filed for intro on 03/26/2001

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 152
By Beavers

A RESOLUTION To honor Mr. Jimmy Stevenson for founding the
Richie Stevenson Scholarship Fund at Benton
Hall School of Franklin.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those citizens who
have contributed to their communities in generous and thoughtful ways; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jimmy Stevenson is one such citizen; in October of 2000, he single-
handedly funded the \$50,000 Richie Stevenson Scholarship Fund at Benton Hall School of
Franklin; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Stevenson was born a "Blue Baby" on the 7th of March, 1949, in a
logging community in the mountains of Northwestern Georgia; he and his family struggled to
survive and escape the chains of poverty; and

WHEREAS, When Jimmy Stevenson was three his mother left him to be cared for by his
father and grandparents, but she returned when he was nine and took him away to the better
life she had prepared for him in Nashville; and

HJR0152

00465785

WHEREAS, Mr. Stevenson started working for the United Parcel Service, unloading trucks, in 1967; his starting wage was \$2.25 an hour; and

WHEREAS, Almost thirty-four years later, he still works for the United Parcel Service (UPS); he presently serves with distinction as a Security Supervisor; and

WHEREAS, He has valiantly served his fellow citizens in the Tennessee Air National Guard for as long as he has been employed with UPS, and he has risen to the rank of Senior Master Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, In 1977, Mr. Stevenson married Donna Tidwell Lamberth; in 1978, he lost his unborn son and almost lost his wife due to the irresponsible actions of an alcohol and drug impaired driver; and

WHEREAS, As a result of complications from the accident, Jimmy and Donna's son Richie was born prematurely, and Richie faced a life with impaired hearing, vision loss, learning difficulties, and impaired motor skills; and

WHEREAS, Donna had a son, Greg, from a previous marriage, and a daughter, Amanda, was added to the family in 1981; and

WHEREAS, After he had struggled for thirty-one years to provide for his beloved family, UPS Stock went public and Jimmy Stevenson and his family benefited greatly from his hard work and dedication in service of the company; and

WHEREAS, At that point, Mr. Stevenson recalled a personal pledge and decided to fund the Richie Stevenson Scholarship Fund at Benton Hall School of Franklin in order to ensure that underprivileged children with learning disabilities would be able to obtain an education tailored to their special needs; and

WHEREAS, He currently spends his leisure time doting on his grandchildren, operating his small grass-cutting business, and preparing his award-winning PT Cruiser for car shows; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Stevenson is an inspiration to those who are fortunate enough to know him, and he seeks no fame or commendation for his acts of generosity and kindness, although he is most deserving of just such recognition; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Mr. Jimmy Stevenson for his dedication and commitment to providing quality education to children with learning disabilities, and we thank him for providing such a sterling example of what it is to be a remarkable Tennessean.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.